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Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

Consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

A. General

The Special Committee,

Having considered the questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands, hereinafter referred to as "the Territories",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to those Territories, including, in particular, the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the individual Territories covered by the present resolution,

Recognizing that the specific characteristics and the sentiments of the peoples of the Territories require flexible, practical and innovative approaches to the options of self-determination, without any prejudice to territorial size, geographical location, size of population or natural resources,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, containing the principles that should guide Member States in determining whether or not an obligation exists to transmit the information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations,

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Expressing its concern that even thirty-eight years after the adoption of the Declaration there still remains a number of Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Acknowledging the significant achievements by the international community towards the eradication of colonialism in accordance with the Declaration, and conscious of the importance of continuing effective implementation of the Declaration, taking into account the target set by the United Nations to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000,

Taking note of the positive constitutional developments in some Non-Self-Governing Territories about which the Special Committee has received information, while also acknowledging the need for recognition to be given to expressions of self-determination by the peoples of the Territories consistent with practice under the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing that in the decolonization process there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination as enunciated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions,

Welcoming the stated position of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland that it continues to take seriously its obligations under the Charter to develop self-government in the dependent Territories and, in cooperation with the locally elected Governments, to ensure that their constitutional frameworks continue to meet the wishes of the people, and the emphasis that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories to decide their future status,

Welcoming also the stated position of the Government of the United States of America that it supports fully the principles of decolonization and takes seriously its obligations under the Charter to promote to the utmost the well-being of the inhabitants of the Territories under United States administration,

Aware of the special circumstances of the geographical location and economic conditions of each Territory, and bearing in mind the necessity of promoting economic stability and diversifying and strengthening further the economies of the respective Territories as a matter of priority,

Conscious of the particular vulnerability of the small Territories to natural disasters and environmental degradation,

Aware of the usefulness both to the Territories and to the Special Committee of the participation of appointed and elected representatives of the Territories in the work of the Special Committee,

Convinced that the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories should continue to guide the development of their future political status and that referendums, free and fair elections, and other forms of popular consultation play an important role in ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the people,

Convinced also that any negotiations to determine the status of a Territory must not take place without the active involvement and participation of the people of that Territory,

Recognizing that all available options for self-determination of the Territories are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV), 1541 (XV) and other resolutions of the General Assembly,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and considering that the possibility of sending

further visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers should be kept under review,

Noting that the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, to hear the views of the representatives of the Territories, as well as Governments and organizations in the region, in order to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Territories,

Mindful that in order for the Special Committee to enhance its understanding of the political status of the peoples of the Territories and to fulfil its mandate effectively, it is important for the Committee to be apprised by the administering Powers, and to receive information from other appropriate sources, including the representatives of the Territories, concerning the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories,

Mindful also in this connection that the Special Committee regards the holding of regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions and at Headquarters and other venues, with the active participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, as a helpful means to fulfil its mandate, while recognizing the need for reviewing the role of those seminars in the context of a United Nations programme for ascertaining the political status of the Territories,

Mindful further that some Territories have not had any United Nations visiting mission for a long period of time, and that no such visiting missions have been sent to some of the Territories,

Noting with appreciation the contribution to the development of some Territories by specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the Territories to self-determination, including, if they so wish, independence, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

2. *Reaffirms also* that it is ultimately for the peoples of the Territories themselves to determine freely their future political status in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Declaration and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and in that connection calls upon the administering Powers, in cooperation with the territorial Governments, to facilitate programmes of political education in the Territories in order to foster an awareness among the people of their right to self-determination in conformity with legitimate political status options, including those defined in resolution 1541 (XV);

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to transmit to the Secretary-General information called for under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and other updated information and reports, including reports on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of the Territories regarding their future political status as expressed in fair and free referendums and other forms of popular consultation, as well as the results of any informed and democratic processes consistent with practice under the Charter that indicate the clear and freely expressed wish of the people to change the existing status of the Territories;

4. *Stresses* the importance for the Special Committee to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their conditions;

5. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Power are an effective means

of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard;

6. *Reaffirms also* the responsibility of the administering Powers under the Charter to promote the economic and social development and to preserve the cultural identity of the Territories, and recommends that priority continue to be given, in consultation with the territorial Governments concerned, to the strengthening and diversification of their respective economies;

7. *Requests* the administering Powers, in consultation with the peoples of the Territories, to take all necessary measures to protect and conserve the environment of the Territories under their administration against any environmental degradation, and requests the specialized agencies concerned to continue to monitor environmental conditions in those Territories;

8. *Calls upon* the administering Powers, in cooperation with the respective territorial Governments, to continue to take all necessary measures to counter problems related to drug trafficking, money laundering and other offences;

9. *Stresses* that the eradication of colonialism by the year 2000 requires the full and constructive cooperation of all parties concerned;

10. *Takes note* of the particular circumstances that prevail in the Territories concerned, and encourages the political evolution in them towards self-determination;

11. *Urges* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the United Nations to usher in the twenty-first century in a world free of colonialism, and calls upon them to continue to give their full support to the Special Committee in its endeavours towards that noble goal;

12. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to initiate or to continue to take all necessary measures to accelerate progress in the social and economic life of the Territories;

13. *Decides* to continue the examination of the question of the small Territories and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session with recommendations on appropriate ways to assist the peoples of the Territories in exercising their right to self-determination.

B. Resolutions on specific conditions prevailing in American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

The Special Committee,

Referring to resolution A above,

1. American Samoa

Noting the report by the administering Power that most American Samoan leaders express satisfaction with the island's present relationship with the United States of America,

Noting with interest the statement made and the information on the political and economic situation in American Samoa provided by the Governor of American Samoa to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji from 16 to 18 June 1998,

Noting further that the Government of the Territory continues to have significant financial, budgetary and internal control problems and that the Territory's deficit and financial condition are compounded by the high demand for government services from the rapidly growing population, a limited economic and tax base, and recent natural disasters,

Noting also that the Territory, similar to isolated communities with limited funds, continues to experience a lack of adequate medical facilities and other infrastructural requirements,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of the Territory to control and reduce expenditures, while continuing its programme of expanding and diversifying the local economy,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in the economic and social development of the Territory, including measures to rebuild financial management capabilities and strengthen other governmental functions of the Government of the Territory;

3. *Welcomes* the invitation extended by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission to the Territory;

2. Anguilla

Conscious of the commitment of both the Government of Anguilla and the administering Power to a new and closer policy of dialogue and partnership through the Country Policy Plan for 1993–1997,

Aware of the efforts of the Government of Anguilla to continue to develop the Territory as a viable offshore centre and well-regulated financial centre for investors, by enacting modern company and trust laws, as well as partnership and insurance legislation, and computerizing the company registry system,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in tackling the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power and all States, organizations and United Nations agencies to continue to assist the Territory in social and economic development;

3. Bermuda

Noting the results of the independence referendum held on 16 August 1995,

Conscious of the different viewpoints of the political parties of the Territory on the future status of the Territory,

Noting the measures taken by the Government to combat racism and the plan to set up a Commission for Unity and Racial Equality,

Noting also the report of the intended closure of the foreign military bases and installations in the Territory,

Taking into consideration the statement made in October 1995 by the Finance Minister on the transfer of those lands for development projects,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to continue its programmes for the socio-economic development of the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to elaborate, in consultation with the territorial Government, programmes of development specifically intended to alleviate the economic, social and environmental consequences of the closure of certain military bases and installations in the Territory;

4. British Virgin Islands

Noting the completion of the constitutional review in the Territory and the coming into force of the amended Constitution, and noting also the results of the general elections held on 20 February 1995,

Noting also the results of the constitutional review of 1993–1994, which made it clear that a prerequisite to independence must be a constitutionally expressed wish by the people as a result of a referendum,

Taking note of the statement made in 1995 by the Chief Minister of the British Virgin Islands that the Territory was ready for constitutional and political advancement towards full internal self-government and that the administering Power should assist through the gradual transfer of power to elected territorial representatives,

Noting that the Territory is emerging as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

Noting also the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and all financial institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Territory for socio-economic development and the development of human resources, bearing in mind the vulnerability of the Territory to external factors;

5. Cayman Islands

Noting the constitutional review of 1992–1993, according to which the population of the Cayman Islands expressed the sentiment that the existing relations with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be maintained and that the current status of the Territory should not be altered,

Aware that the Territory has one of the highest per capita incomes in the region, a stable political climate and virtually no unemployment,

Noting the actions taken by the territorial Government to implement its localization programme to promote increased participation by the local population in the decision-making process in the Cayman Islands,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking, money laundering and related activities,

Noting the measures taken by the authorities to deal with those problems,

Noting also that the Territory has emerged as one of the world's leading offshore financial centres,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to provide the territorial Government with all required expertise to enable it to achieve its socio-economic aims;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

4. *Requests* the administering Power, in consultation with the territorial Government, to continue to facilitate the expansion of the current programme of securing employment for the local population, in particular at the decision-making level;

6. Montserrat

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Montserrat provided by the elected representatives of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,

Noting also the statement made by the Chief Minister of Montserrat on 22 May 1998 on the occasion of the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights,

Noting that the last visiting mission took place in 1982,

Noting also the functioning of a democratic process in Montserrat, and that general elections were held in the Territory in November 1996,

Taking note of the reported statement of the Chief Minister that his preference was for independence within a political union with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and that self-reliance was more of a priority than independence,

Noting with concern the dire consequences of a volcanic eruption, which led to the evacuation of a third of the Territory's population to safe areas of the island and to areas outside the Territory, in particular Antigua and Barbuda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and which continues to have a negative impact upon the economy of the island,

Noting the efforts of the administering Power and the Government of the Territory to meet the emergency situation caused by the volcanic eruption, including the implementation of a wide range of contingency measures for both the private and the public sectors in Montserrat,

Noting also the coordinated response measures taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the assistance of the United Nations disaster management team,

Noting with deep concern that a substantial number of the inhabitants of the Territory continue to live in shelters because of volcanic activity,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating the consequences of the volcanic eruption;

7. Pitcairn

Taking into account the unique nature of Pitcairn in terms of population and area,

Expressing its satisfaction with the continued economic and social advancement of the Territory, as well as with the improvement of its communications with the outside world and its management plan to address conservation issues,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue its assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

8. St. Helena

Taking into account the unique character of St. Helena, its population and its natural resources,

Aware of the request by the Legislative Council of St. Helena that the administering Power conduct a constitutional review in the Territory,

Noting the statement of 1995 by the administering Power that the Governor of the island would be ready to enter into debate on a constitutional review of St. Helena,

Aware of the establishment by the Government of the Territory of the Development Agency in 1995 to encourage private sector commercial development on the island,

Also aware of the efforts of the administering Power and the territorial authorities to improve the socio-economic conditions of the population of St. Helena, in particular in the sphere of food production,

Noting with concern the problem of unemployment on the island and the joint action of the administering Power and the territorial Government to deal with it,

1. *Notes* that the administering Power has taken note of various statements made by members of the Legislative Council of St. Helena about the Constitution and is prepared to discuss them further with the people of St. Helena, and also notes that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recently sent a delegation to study the Constitution and its application with the Legislative Council;

2. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

3. *Requests* the administering Power and relevant regional and international organizations to continue to support the efforts of the territorial Government to address the socio-economic development of the Territory;

9. Turks and Caicos Islands

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands provided by the Cabinet Minister as well as a member of the legislature from the opposition of the Territory to the Caribbean Regional Seminar held at St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, from 21 to 23 May 1997,

Noting the establishment in November 1995 of the Action Committee for Political Independence, formed by prominent political figures from different parties, and its stated goal of educating the population in the disadvantages of the present colonial status and the benefits of independence,

Noting also the efforts by the Government of the Territory to strengthen financial management in the public sector, including efforts to increase revenue,

Noting with concern the vulnerability of the Territory to drug trafficking and related activities, as well as its problems caused by illegal immigration,

Noting the need for continued cooperation between the administering Power and the territorial Government in countering drug trafficking and money laundering,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Invites* the administering Power to take fully into account the wishes and interests of the Government and the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands in the governance of the Territory;

3. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the relevant regional and international organizations to continue to provide assistance for the improvement of the economic, social, educational and other conditions of the population of the Territory;

4. *Calls upon* the administering Power and the territorial Government to continue to cooperate to counter problems related to money laundering, smuggling of funds and other related crimes, as well as drug trafficking;

10. United States Virgin Islands

Noting with interest the statements made and the information provided by the representative of the Governor of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji from 16 to 18 June 1998,

Noting that general elections were held in November 1994,

Noting also that 27.5 per cent of the electorate participated in the referendum on the political status of the Territory held on 11 October 1993, that 80.4 per cent of those who voted supported the existing territorial status arrangements with the United States of America and that the referendum left the status issue undecided,

Noting further the continuing interest of the territorial Government in seeking associate membership in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and observer status in the Caribbean Community, and the Association of Caribbean States,

Noting the necessity of further diversifying the Territory's economy,

Welcoming the conclusion of the discussion between the Government of the Territory and the administering Power on the question of Water Island,

Noting the efforts of the Government of the Territory to promote the Territory as an offshore financial services centre,

Noting with satisfaction the interest of the Territory in joining the United Nations International Drug Control Programme as a full participant,

Recalling the dispatch in 1977 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory,

1. *Requests* the administering Power, bearing in mind the views of the people of the Territory ascertained through a democratic process, to keep the Secretary-General informed of the wishes and aspirations of the people regarding their future political status;

2. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

3. *Further requests* the administering Power to facilitate the participation of the Territory, as appropriate, in various organizations, in particular the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Community;

4. *Welcomes* the conclusion of the negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the question of Water Island.

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1998.

2. At its 1483rd meeting, on 16 September 1997, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, in which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.[1]

3. At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997, in paragraph 17 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

4. Under the terms of the foregoing resolution, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council in 1998, an account of which is set out in document E/1998/76. In accordance with established practice, the Acting Chairman took part in the Council's consideration of the related item at its 1998 session.

5. Information on further developments will be issued as addenda to the present report, as appropriate and necessary.

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Notes

[1] A/AC.109/2100. See also A/52/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, paras. 13 and 14. The complete report is to be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General[1] and the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 and the resolutions of the Special Committee, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions, including in particular Economic and Social Council resolution 1997/66 of 25 July 1997,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

[1] A/53/130

[2] A/AC.109/L.1880

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Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/73 of 10 December 1997 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of its Acting Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;[3]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of

[3] See E/1998/76

the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Reaffirms also* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerned to provide information on:

(a) Environmental problems facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(b) The impact of natural disasters, such as hurricanes and volcanoes, and other environmental problems, such as beach and coastal erosion and droughts, on those Territories;

(c) Ways and means to assist the Territories to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities;

(d) The illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of the peoples of the Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the continued initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

13. *Encourages* Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

14. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

15. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

17. *Commends* the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

18. *Requests* the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides*, subject to any directives the General Assembly might wish to give at its fifty-third session to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its 1472nd meeting, on 12 June 1997, the Special Committee adopted a resolution concerning the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2095).[1] The operative part of the resolution reads as follows:

> "*The Special Committee*,
>
> "1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;
>
> "2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;
>
> "3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;
>
> "4. *Requests* its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;
>
> "5. *Also requests* its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory".

2. On 10 December 1997, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 52/77 A, paragraphs 4 and 5 of which read as follows:

98-23180 (E) 100898

"*The General Assembly*,

"4. *Stresses* the importance for the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to be apprised of the views and wishes of the peoples of the Territories and to enhance its understanding of their condition;

"5. *Reaffirms* that United Nations visiting missions to the Territories at an appropriate time and in consultation with the administering Powers are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, and requests the administering Powers and the elected representatives of the peoples of the Territories to assist the Special Committee in this regard."

3. An account of the consultations held by the Acting Chairman in accordance with operative paragraph 4 of the Special Committee's resolution is set out below.

4. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to the Acting Chairman by the Special Committee, the Acting Chairman, by letters dated 2 July 1998 addressed to the Permanent Representatives of France, New Zealand, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, in their capacity as administering Powers, drew their attention to the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. In drawing their attention to General Assembly resolution 52/77 A, and resolution A/AC.109/2095 of the Special Committee, the Acting Chairman informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing firsthand information on those Territories. The Acting Chairman once again appealed to the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations in the sending of such missions.

5. The Acting Chairman restated to the administering Powers that their full cooperation was essential for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers that cooperated in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminars that the Special Committee had organized within the context of the Decade.[2]

6. The Acting Chairman recalled with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the Council, or *Faipule*, of Tokelau, the Special Committee had dispatched a United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau in July 1994.

7. The Acting Chairman, in his consultations with the administering Powers reiterated the need for visiting missions to ascertain the views of the peoples of the Territories concerned.

8. By letter dated 15 July 1998, addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, the Chargé d'affaires of Portugal stated the following:

"... Portugal would be willing, in principle, to invite the Special Committee on Decolonization to visit East Timor. However, we are unable to formulate such an invitation given the illegal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia, in violation of international law and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council.

"Efforts to reach a solution to this problem are currently being undertaken by the Secretary-General and his personal representative at two levels: in the framework

of a tripartite dialogue and in the framework of an all-inclusive intra-Timorese dialogue.

"Portugal will continue to keep the Special Committee on Decolonization informed on the developments concerning the Territory, despite the fact that, owing to the current situation, we are unable to fulfil our administration mandate and, therefore, conclude the decolonization process."

9. By letter dated 30 July 1998, addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand stated the following:

"... there is of course no question concerning the willingness of New Zealand – and indeed of Tokelau – to receive visiting missions at appropriate times. It is just four years since the last visiting mission, and there have been three earlier ones.

The Government of New Zealand "believe(s) that through the regular transmission of information and its participation and Tokelau's directly in the work of the Special Committee, the United Nations is currently well informed about the situation in the territory.

"The most recent statements made by the *Ulu* of Tokelau and the Administrator on 8 July 1998 will be recalled. Those statements indicate that Tokelau is moving into an active phase in the development of its self-government capacity. Indeed, Tokelau is working to have in place within 12 to 18 months new structures at both national and village levels. This reconstructed 'house of Tokelau' will ensure that all organizations and agencies, including the public service for which an authority in New Zealand has held statutory responsibility since 1967, will be accountable to Tokelau authorities.

"Tokelau appreciates the Special Committee's positive response to this situation, as is shown in the resolution which was adopted without a vote on 10 July 1998. Equally appreciated is the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme. Meetings with the United Nations Development Programme held by the *Ulu* when he was in New York served to take this cooperation to a new level. Tokelau was informed subsequently that the United Nations Development Programme is making available funding of $US 150,000 from its regional governance programme to support Tokelau's work on constitutional and political development.

"The *Ulu* became aware of the Special Committee's present approach regarding a visiting mission during his visit and, upon his return to Tokelau he held meetings with the leaders of each village in order to report on his activities abroad. In that reporting, mention was made of the suggestion of a further visiting mission. The same reporting is included in the documentation for a General *Fono*, which commenced on 30 July 1998.

"Taking into account Tokelau's limited human and material resources, there is an administering power/territory consensus that its best course in the phase ahead is to concentrate on the immediate challenge: that of developing the detail of the new institutional arrangements and of addressing the varied capability and resource implications in conjunction with New Zealand. There will also be consequential legislative changes in New Zealand and Tokelau.

"The Special Committee, in its latest resolution, has again noted Tokelau's desire to move at its own pace towards an act of self-determination. As current initiatives and endeavours relating to a reconstructed 'house of Tokelau' bear fruit, Tokelau will become better placed to assess the question of self-determination. Clearly any

significant statement made by Tokelau on that subject will be important for the United Nations too.

"In the meantime, New Zealand and Tokelau will keep the matter of a visiting mission under review. It is envisaged that a further assessment could be made in mid-1999, once it is clearer how Tokelau is faring in its current endeavour. The Special Committee may be assured that any fresh assessment of the situation will be conveyed to it in a timely manner."

10. The Acting Chairman will keep the Special Committee apprised of any further developments in his consultations with the administering Powers concerned on this question.

11. A list of the visiting missions dispatched by the Special Committee or by the General Assembly is contained in the annex to the present report.

Notes

[1] See A/52/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 6. The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/52/23).

[2] Regional seminars were held in Vanuatu (A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1) and Barbados (A/AC.109/1043) in 1990; in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114) in 1992; in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/1159) in 1993; in Trinidad and Tobago (A/AC.109/2030) in 1995; in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/2058) in 1996; in Antigua and Barbuda in 1997 (A/AC.109/2089); and in Nadi, Fiji, in 1998 (A/AC.109/2121). The first two were held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the last six were held in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Annex

Visiting missions dispatched by the Special Committee or the General Assembly

1965	Cook Islands (election supervision)
1966	Equatorial Guinea
1967	Aden
1968	Equatorial Guinea (referendum/election supervision)
1971	Papua New Guinea (jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1972	Niue Papua New Guinea (election observation, jointly with the Trusteeship Council)
1974	Niue (referendum observation) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Gilbert and Ellice Islands (referendum observation)
1975	Cape Verde Montserrat Spanish Sahara
1976	British Virgin Islands Tokelau
1977	French Somaliland (referendum/election observation) Cayman Islands United States Virgin Islands
1979	Guam New Hebrides
1980	Turks and Caicos Islands (April) Cocos (Keeling) Islands Turks and Caicos Islands (October/November) (election observation)
1981	Tokelau American Samoa
1982	Montserrat
1984	Cocos (Keeling) Islands (act of self-determination) Anguilla
1986	Tokelau
1989	Namibia (election observation)
1994	Tokelau

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of Guam

Papua New Guinea: draft resolution

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of Guam and recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the special committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

98-22817 (E) 050898

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,[1]

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,

1. *Calls upon* the administering Power to cooperate with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in order to facilitate Guam's decolonization, and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as endorsed by the people of Guam, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to continue the negotiations on this matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to this end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to transfer land to the people of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people of Guam;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

8. *Decides* to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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[1] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20).

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Acting Chairman on the question,[1]

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission was dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,[2]

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-

[1] A/AC.109/L.1882.

[2] A/AC.109/2009.

98-23406 (E) 110898

third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Welcoming the invitation extended at the Pacific Regional Seminar held in Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998, by the Governor of American Samoa to the Special Committee to send a visiting mission,

Welcoming the commencement of informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and calls upon them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. *Requests* its Acting Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* its Acting Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico

Cuba: draft resolution

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Recalling that 25 July 1998 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States of America's intervention in Puerto Rico,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Taking into account the discussions in the Congress of the United States of America on relations between Puerto Rico and the United States of America,

Considering that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the sixteen resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonization on the question of Puerto Rico,

Aware that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own and unequivocal national identity,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and the application of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

98-23162 (E) 070898

2. *Expresses* its hope, and that of the international community, that the Government of the United States of America will assume its responsibility of expediting a process that allows the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and this Committee's resolutions and decisions on Puerto Rico;

3. *Requests* the Rapporteur to present a report to the Special Committee next year on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuing review.

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee

Acting Chairman: **Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla (Cuba)**

[1. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Special Committee considered pending matters related to its work and took decisions on the following agenda items.]

Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. The General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in its resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. The Special Committee decided that in that connection it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1999 and that, when the particulars of such meetings became known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions in accordance with established procedure.

Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 6 February 1998, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee recommended that the Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1999.

Pattern of conferences

5. The Special Committee noted that during the year, the Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in

98-23196 (E) 110898

the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 52/214 of 22 December 1997. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided to continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Special Committee decided, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1999, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March:	As required
June/July:	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July:	20 meetings

7. It would be understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1999, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, would strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Special Committee noted that during the year it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 52/214. The Special Committee decided that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, it would streamline its report to the Assembly.

9 By its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim record with summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records.

Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

10. The Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-third session.

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Special Committee decided to organize in 1999 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

12. The Special Committee decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementing General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

13. The Special Committee decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.

14. At its 1498th meeting, on 11 August 1998 the Special Committee also took note of the following text on its future work to be included in its report to the General Assembly.

Future work

15. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-third session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 1999 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 1514 (XV) on 14 December 1960.

16. Given the significance of the end of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will endeavour to look at its own work critically, making an assessment of the effectiveness of its activities and the areas in which it can effect improvements.

17. In order to facilitate the consultations on what approach it intends to take on that assessment and based on the general discussions and comments of delegates during the present session, the Acting Chairman presented a paper, without prejudice to the position of any delegation, which is annexed to the present report.

18. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep under continuous review developments concerning each Territory. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations. In that connection, the Special Committee intends to improve and strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers.

19. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

20. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/181. The activities to be undertaken in that connection include a seminar in the Caribbean region to be organized by the Special Committee in 1999, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

21. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the people concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers on the matter.

22. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. Aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens, the Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes also that the issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990 (see A/AC.109/1040 and

Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058 and A/AC.109/2089).

23. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the action taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations as appropriate. It will be guided by the results of consultations held in 1998 and those to be held in 1999 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Further, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the Secretaries-General and senior officials of regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

24. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

25. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on the resolution on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2125) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

26. Taking into consideration its mandate on Wester Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure th implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV for all Non-Self-Governing Territories and in accordanc with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 2 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a missio to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum i the Territory.

27. Taking into account the views expressed by th representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governin Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Specia Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendation contained in the Plan of Action for the International Decad for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committe will continue to consider, in cooperation with th administering Powers, how to intensify and improve th participation of the representatives of those Territories in th work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

28. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembl resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences, and takin into consideration its experience in previous years as we as its probable workload for 1999, the Special Committe has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 199 which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

29. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated th importance of disseminating information on decolonizatio as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaratio on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries an Peoples. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continu to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and th observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of A Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence an Human Rights to disseminate information on its activitie and on the Non-Self-Governing Territories in an effort t mobilize world public opinion to support and assist th people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy an unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms an manifestations.

30. The Special Committee suggests that, when th General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, examines th question of the implementation of the Declaration, it m wish to take into account the various recommendations the Special Committee that are reflected in the releva chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endor the proposals outlined in the present section in order enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks envisages for 1999. The Special Committee is gratified th the informal consultations it held with the administeri Powers (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and North

Ireland and the United States of America) and the European Union concluded in an agreement on the consolidated draft resolution on small Territories and the draft resolution on economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, respectively. It intends to pursue those consultations, which it hopes will be transformed into formal cooperation. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly again request the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Further, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

31. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities the Special Committee envisages for 1999. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 1998 and 1999 based on the level of activities approved for 1997, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-third session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

Annex

Paper submitted by the Acting Chairman of Special Committee of 24*

The Special Committee of 24 may wish to convene a meeting in the near future to carry out a critical review of the work of the Special Committee and draw up a plan for its future activities. The administering Powers and all the Member States would be invited to participate in this exercise.

In order to organize that meeting, informal consultations could be held at the end of 1998 or early in 1999.

At that meeting, the Special Committee would examine, *inter alia*, the following issues or proposals:

(a) Holding early consultations with the administering Powers for the purpose of obtaining agreement on the Territories receiving United Nations visiting missions, in compliance with General Assembly resolutions;

(b) Organizing high-level missions of consultation with the administering Powers regarding progress made in the implementation of the 1960 Declaration;

(c) Organizing specialized workshops in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the participation of the specialized agencies to review the assistance needs of the Territories;

(d) Assessing the effectiveness of the regional seminars with a view to making practical recommendations to enhance their importance and impact;

(e) In cooperation with the Economic and Social Council, organizing joint meetings regarding assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, particularly in the context of sustainable development;

(f) Organizing and conducting specialized meetings with parliamentarians on specific decolonization issues;

(g) Considering the possibility of organizing an international conference on decolonization at the highest level at United Nations Headquarters;

(h) Publishing a special issue of *Decolonization*, a quarterly publication in English, French and Spanish which began in 1974. It contained studies and monographs in the field of decolonization. The last issue of *Decolonization* was published in December 1993. It is proposed that in 1999, one issue of *Decolonization* would be published by the Secretariat. (As a general guideline, the issue could give a general background of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, could examine the activities and achievements of the United Nations during that period and could contain information on the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.) The current budget for the biennium includes provision for publication of *Decolonization*;

(i) Compiling a compendium of General Assembly resolutions on decolonization. This is envisaged as reference material on decolonization. The compendium could cover the Decade, 1990–2000, or could go back to the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The material could be organized by session and/or subject matter (i.e., dissemination of information, specific Territories, Article 73 *e* and so on);

(j) Establishing a home page on decolonization on the Internet, including in it reports on the activities of the Special Committee, all the working papers on the Territories, the reports of the regional seminars and the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee as well as consideration by other organs and their subsidiary bodies of issues relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(k) Including selected articles on decolonization in United Nations publications (i.e., the *UN Chronicle*). Efforts should be made to have the international press include opinion/ editorial pieces on decolonization;

(l) Organizing special activities for the press, such as a round table for journalists, on decolonization issues. Members of the Special Committee, and representatives of the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories could be invited to make presentations on specific issues;

(m) Preparing kits on decolonization for dissemination in schools. Items in the kit could include some of the material mentioned above.

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* This paper is being presented without prejudice to the position of any delegation.